(a) whether the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is under implementation in the country and available to all the farmers;

(b) whether Government proposes to amend the NAIS;

(c) if so, whether the scheme has been amended/finalized so far; and

(d) the claim amount so far paid to farmers under the modified NAIS during the last three years till date against their crop losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

New variety of paddy developed by Indian scientists

913. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new variety of paddy has been developed by scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) which yields 3.5 tonnes per hectare despite being submerged in water for 20 days;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ICAR proposes to increase commercial production of this variety of paddy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) A new variety of rice Swarna Sub-1 has been developed under the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) collaborative research programme. The gene for submergence tolerance (Sub-1) was cloned by IRRI from the Indian flood tolerant variety FR-13-A and was transferred into the popular Indian rice variety Swarna and hence the name of this variety as Swarna Sub-1. This variety produces 3.0 to 3.5 tonnes per hectare under submerged condition for about two weeks.

(c) and (d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research is mandated for the production of breeder seed. The Breeder seed is produced at various ICAR Institutes/State Agricultural Universities based on the indents received from Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Government of India. As the variety has been formally notified in 2009, indents are expected from next year onwards.

Production of cotton in India

914. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rank of India amongst cotton growing countries has come down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total production of cotton in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether Government proposes to formulate a scheme to encourage production of cotton in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State-wise production of cotton during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07 to 2008-09 is given in enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The Government has been implementing a Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) since 2000-01. The aim of the TMC is to increase production, productivity and improve the quality of cotton. The TMC consists of four Mini Missions. Mini Mission-1 on research is being implemented by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), while Mini Mission-II for enhancing production and productivity is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Mini Mission-II on the development of market infrastructure and Mini Mission-IV on modernization of ginning/pressing factories are being handled in the Ministry of Textiles.

Statement

State-wise estimated production of Cotton during 2006-07 to 2008-09

Production ('000 Bales of 170 Kgs. each)

States	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09*
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2181.0	3491.0	3572.0
Assam	0.6	0.6	1.0
Chhattisgarh	0.2	0.1	0.0
Gujarat	8787.0	8276.0	7616.0
Haryana	1814.0	1885.0	1858.0
Himachal Pradesh	0.1	0.2	0.1
Jammu and Kashmir	0.0	0.0	0.0
Karnataka	610.0	778.0	912.0
Kerala	2.0	1.7	1.5

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	828.6	864.8	856.1
Maharashtra	4618.0	7015.0	4943.0
Meghalaya	7.7	6.5	#
Mizoram	5.2	0.6	#
Nagaland	0.2	0.3	#
Orissa	107.9	124.7	146.6
Punjab	2678.0	2355.0	2285.0
Rajasthan	746.8	862.2	725.7
Tamil Nadu	220.9	200.7	205.4
Tripura	1.6	1.5	#
Uttar Pradesh	7.0	6.8	1.0
West Bengal	14.7	13.2	24.0
Pondicherry	0.3	0.2	#
Others	NA	NA	9.0
ALL INDIA:	22631.8	25884.1	23156.4

*4th Advance Estimates released on 07.07.2009

#included in others

NA : Not Applicable

Suicide by farmers

†915. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of suicides by farmers in the country has increased rapidly in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, for the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken so far by Government to prevent farmers from committing suicides and to what extent these steps have been effective;

(d) the provisions made by Government to provide compensation to farmers who committed suicide and whether Government is satisfied with the progress in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) The incidents of suicide by farmers have been mainly reported from the States of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.